

ABSTRACT

PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF: PERCEPTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION, FAMILY, AND WORK LIFE

This study was based on in-depth interviews with 13 deaf people who used sign language as their primary mode of communication. This study aimed to explore deaf people's perspectives and perceptions regarding their life experiences, along with identifying barriers they encountered in society. The findings of this study indicate that deaf people face a multitude of barriers in education, family life, employment, and society. These findings correlate with the existing empirical literature review. The most common barrier identified by the participants was discrimination, which has limited their ability to participate in the work force, and in social settings. These findings also revealed that communication with parents is instrumental in developing a positive parent-child relationship. These research findings can be used as a beginning step for more research regarding deaf people's life experiences from their own perspectives and what they encounter living as a deaf person in a hearing society.

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